

CATHOLIC CENTENNIAL.

The Appointment of the First American Bishop Celebrated at Baltimore.

Thousands of People of All Creeds Witness the Scenes Attending the Event.

Leading Men of the Church in America and Canada Present—Archbishop Ryan's Masterly Address.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 11.—The most important group of events in the history of the Catholic church in America took place here yesterday. It was the commencement of the triple celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the appointment of the first American Catholic bishop, the inauguration of the first congress of Catholic laymen held in the United States and the dedication of the new national university for Catholics. Ten thousand strangers were in Baltimore to witness the spectacle, four times as many people (not counting local Catholics) as could possibly be accommodated in the cathedral, while the open windows of the surrounding dwellings overflowed with a quota of spectators. Presently, while the white-robed priests were opening their ranks, a mass of purple-veiled figures were seen in the cardinal's doorway. It was a gathering of nearly all the Catholic bishops and archbishops in the United States, with representatives from Mexico, Canada, England and Rome.

Priests now come forth from the big parties in pairs, and as each two stepped into the street their robes were caught up by diminutive altar boys in waiting. Here and there among the silken and purple vestments of bishops could be seen the coarse brown or white gown of the bearded abbots. Through long lines of paces the procession threaded its way around the square to the main entrance of the cathedral, the rear of the procession being brought up by Archbishop Feehan, of Chicago, who immediately preceded the golden vested cross bearer, followed by two spare, slight looking men almost hidden in dazzling scarlet. The men in scarlet were cardinals of the Roman church of America, Gibbons and Taschereau, of Quebec. Eight acolytes upheld their vestments, and surrounding them were other monsignors, with papal delegates O'Connell and Sestili, of Rome. Within the cathedral ten minutes later the scene was simply magnificent. The seats throughout the church were crowded to the limit, with the pews in striking contrast, with dark wood, cloths, to the aggregation formed in the aisles, the center and front and sides being packed with snow-surfaced priests. Against both layit and prelates shone the purple ranks of the prelates.

Inside the sanctuary on either side was the date for cardinals. At the high altar stood the mitred celebrant of mass, Archbishop Williams, of Boston, and over all was the great white and gold dome of the cathedral. At the consecration of the host the cardinals advanced from the sides with the monsignors, bowed themselves, kneeling at the prætore facing the altar. Back of them was arrayed a row of richly arrayed acolytes bearing high and low crosses. Cardinals, retinues, etc., followed. As Cardinal Gibbons, referred to this day by reporters in the improvised press gallery noticed for the first time, not six feet from him in the sanctuary, among the abbots and other special dignitaries, the black face of Father Tolton, of Chicago, the first colored priest ordained in America.

Probably the most impressive part of the mass, next to the consecration, was the conferring of the papal blessing. The mass ended with a special intercession for the pope, chanted by the clergy. The first oration of the centenary was delivered by Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia. The patriotic spirit of the archbishop's address and his tribute to the recent devotion of the colored race, intended to awaken general enthusiasm. But the most telling effect was aroused when he vindicated the right of catholic editors, if need be, to freely comment on the failings of the clergy.

In the course of his address Archbishop Ryan said that of all the false charges alleged against the Catholic church, the most senseless and unfounded is that she fears science and is an enemy of education. Her opponents almost in the same breath charge her with being a foe at once and monopolizing education and the last man in the world to fear intellectual progress, whether of population or individual, is the Catholic. He well knows that truth is one that God has not contradicted in the revelations of the scripture what exhibits in the revelation of science. Hence man's fearlessness of such will be in proportion to the certainty of his conviction of the truths of revelation.

The archbishop continued, addressing the laity: "On this great historic occasion you must not be mere observers, but we trust your representatives will speak out freely and fearlessly in the lay congress which forms so interesting a feature in this centennial celebration. You know how false is the charge of the enemies of the church that you are 'priest-ridden.' The clergy did not fear the laity, and any mistakes were made by Catholic editors regarding their acts, it was not an evil, for it clearly showed the rightful independence of Catholic journalists."

The archbishop gave general statistics of the church during the century as follows: When Bishop Carroll was consecrated in 1790 the entire population of the United States was little more than 3,000,000. The Catholic population was estimated at 40,000. There is now a Catholic population of 3,000,000, 8,000 priests, 30,000 churches and chapels, 27 seminaries, 65 colleges and academies and over 3,000 parishes.

The remarkable statistics quoted became marvelous when we consider the antagonism of a great majority of the people to the Catholic church. As in pagan times, in the history of the Catholic churches in this country perfect organization was feared as possibly dangerous to the state, and a great and numerous party, afraid to act in the open day, entered into a secret society against a handful of their fellow citizens. Few people realize how much indirect benefit this cowardly opposition was to the church during its brief period of trial. The party was prophetically named at its birth "nothing." The thoughtful men of the nation who opposed this party were driven into the ranks of the church defenders. Important conversions and the clearing away of much ignorance and prejudice were the result. Hence, since there is a change in popular sentiment in relation to the Catholic church; in addition to this, it must be remembered, that Catholics

and Protestants now associate more frequently, and in time will understand each other better. But we must also bear in mind the mind of God. That may have fallen away. I believe that in the last century we could have done more for the colored people of the south and Indian tribes. I am not unmindful of the zeal and unlimited resources for its exercise of southern bishops, nor yet the self sacrifice of Indian missionaries. But as I believed negro slavery unjust, and the treatment of the Indians are great blots upon American civilization, I feel that the church's most reasonable cause for rejection in the past century, is the fact that more could have been done for the same dependent classes. Let us now, in the name of God, resolve to make reparation for these shortcomings of the past. A magnificent future is before the church in this country if we are only true to her, to the country and to ourselves."

Economic Foot-Dressing.
Harry La Schorn says: I have only one hobby, and that is shoes, or rather a peculiar fashion I have of wearing them. I used to think that a man got the best service out of a shoe by putting on the best pair a shoemaker could make him and wearing them constantly until the leather gave way somewhere, but I now think that is the most extravagant way of dressing the feet. I am now wearing out of town a pair of shoes in good wearable condition. I never wear the same pair two days in succession, and at least once a month I go over each pair with a brush dipped in vaseline. Thus with three pairs of shoes I give each pair one day of work and two days of rest, and the leather has time to regain its elasticity and stretch out the wrinkles the foot has made. These wrinkles become breaks in the leather when the shoe is continuously worn. The vaseline is better than any other oil for fine leather. I used to wear out four pairs of \$3 shoes a year, one at a time. The same number now last me two years.

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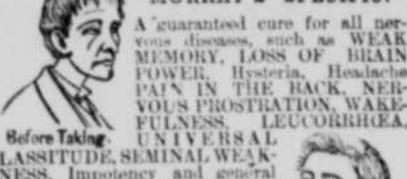
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